

Application No.: 10/677075

Docket No.: TOW-045

REMARKS

Applicant amends claims 1 and 3. Support for the claim amendment can be found throughout the application and at least at Fig. 5. Claims 1-6 are pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define over the art of record.

Claim Rejection

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,124,565 to Yoshida et al. (hereafter "Yoshida") in view of United States Patent No. 6,208,305 to King (hereafter "King"). Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Yoshida reference in view of the King reference and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,078,293 to Yamamoto (hereafter "Yamamoto"). Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Yoshida reference in view of the King reference further in view of United States Patent No. 4,132,994 to Caldwell (hereafter "Caldwell"). Applicant respectfully submits that any combination of the Yoshida reference, the King reference, the Yamamoto reference, and the Caldwell reference fail to teach or suggest the limitation that the transmitting antenna is installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding said instrument panel to the vehicle, and the instrument panel is disposed around a handle bar near the center of rotation of said handle bar, as recited in amended claim 1.

The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention provides an electronic key system where the transmitting antenna is installed on an instrument panel or a framework surrounding the instrument panel, and the instrument panel is disposed around a handle bar near the center of rotation of the handle bar. With this structure, the instrument panel can turn as the handle bar turns and the instrument panel necessary for driving is effectively utilized. Moreover, because the distance

Application No.: 10/677075

Docket No.: TOW-045

between the antenna and the driver is kept short while the driver is operating the vehicle, additional communication of the electronic key can be made available.

The Yoshida Reference

The Yoshida reference teaches an electric power supply control device for a vehicle. Yoshida teaches installation of an antenna 17 for an electronic key 18 to a cowl only. Yoshida does not teach or suggest the limitation of a transmitting antenna installed on an instrument panel of the vehicle or a framework surrounding the instrument panel of the vehicle, or the limitation that the instrument panel is disposed around a handle bar near the center of rotation of said handle bar, as recited in amended claim 1. Hence, the Yoshida reference cannot achieve the result of an instrument panel that turns as a handle bar turns.

The King Reference

The King reference teaches that an antenna 38 that is mounted to the surface of the instrument panel 28. The King reference also teaches a loop antenna 40 that is installed in the rim 39 of a steering wheel 26. The King reference further teaches an antenna 56 that is mounted on a seat 32. However, the King reference does not teach or suggest an antenna that is mounted on or around an instrument panel can be combined with *the instrument panel being disposed around a handle bar near the center of rotation of the handle bar*, as required by amended claim 1. Hence, the King reference cannot achieve the result of an instrument panel that turns as a handle bar turns. Applicant respectfully submits that the King reference fails to cure the deficiency of the Yoshida reference.

The Yamamoto Reference

The Yamamoto reference teaches an antenna 1A mounted inside of a switch main body 1C of a column switch 1 supporting a steering wheel 2. The switch main body is not part of an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework

Application No.: 10/677075

Docket No.: TOW-045

surrounding the instrument panel. Applicant respectfully submits that the Yamamoto reference does not teach or suggest the limitation that the transmitting antenna is installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding said instrument panel to the vehicle, and the instrument panel is disposed around a handle bar near the center of rotation of said handle bar, as recited in amended claim 1. Hence, the Yamamoto reference cannot achieve the results that the instrument panel turns as the handle bar turns. Applicant respectfully submits that the Yamamoto reference fails to cure the deficiencies of the Yoshida reference and the King reference.

The Caldwell Reference

The Caldwell reference teaches a radio antenna 22 mounted along the edge of a windshield 18. However, the Caldwell reference does not teach or suggest the limitation that the transmitting antenna is installed on an instrument panel of a vehicle or a framework surrounding said instrument panel to the vehicle, and the instrument panel is disposed around a handle bar near the center of rotation of said handle bar, as recited in amended claim 1. Hence, the Caldwell reference cannot achieve the result of an instrument panel turns as the handle bar turns. Applicant respectfully submits that the Caldwell reference fails to cure the deficiencies of the Yoshida reference, the King reference, and the Yamamoto reference.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that any combination of the Yoshida reference, the King reference, the Yamamoto reference, and the Caldwell reference fail to teach or suggest each and every element and limitation in amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

Applicant notes that the dependent claims also recite patentable subject matter. As such, for this and the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims also define over the art of record.

Application No.: 10/677075

Docket No.: TOW-045

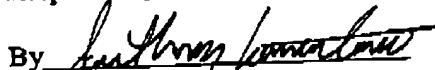
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. TOW-045 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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